

## JASH President Visits Japanese Red Cross Society in Tokyo

On April 11, Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) President Ed Hawkins visited the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan to present funds donated by the people of Hawaii to support disaster relief for the victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hawkins presented a check for \$1 million to JRCS Vice-President Yoshiharu Otsuka as the first distribution. Mr. Otsuka thanked the people of Hawaii for this generous donation and the outpouring of sympathy and support. He promised the funds will go to support relief operations in the affected regions.



*JASH President Ed Hawkins presents a check for \$1 million donated by the people of Hawaii for relief of the victims of the tragic earthquake and tsunami to JRCS Vice President Yoshiharu Otsuka at JRCS Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan (April 11, 2011).*

Mr. Hawkins also presented another check on behalf of the staff and supporters of I-Lion Hawaii School, an Oahu-based branch of Sendai Ikuei Gakuen, asking those funds directly support the affected victims in the Sendai region.

Following the presentations, Mr. Hawkins met with Mr. Otsuka in his office to discuss JRCS relief operations at which time Mr. Otsuka spoke about his visit to the affected region and how he was shocked at the extent of the damage and deeply affected by the suffering of the victims of the tragedy but moved by the quiet determination of the people

to help each other and recover from their tragic circumstances. Mr. Otsuka explained how the JRCS staff and countless volunteers are assisting in the relief and recovery operations, and thanked the people of Hawaii, the people of the United States, and the people of the world for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support that has deeply moved him and the people of Japan.

Mr. Hawkins informed Mr. Otsuka about the various fundraising efforts occurring in Hawaii in support of Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief, including the state-wide "Aloha for Japan" campaign coordinated by Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Hawkins explained that major banks in Hawaii have led the collection effort and related stories about Hawaii's school children passing around collection jars in classrooms, and even hotel housekeepers organizing collection drives. Mr. Hawkins informed Mr. Otsuka that on the very day of the meeting, a major fundraising concert was being held in Hawaii called "Kokua for Japan" with proceeds going to the American Red Cross for relief efforts in Japan.

Mr. Hawkins presented Mr. Otsuka with an agreement between the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and the Japanese Red Cross Society on how donated funds would be used and accounted for. The agreement requests periodic updates of JRCS activities and how the funds have been expended.

Afterwards, Mr. Otsuka took Mr. Hawkins to see the JRCS Operations Center that is coordinating relief operations. The JRCS has 55,000 employees and operates a number of hospitals, including many in the affected region.

Prior to meeting with Mr. Otsuka, Mr. Hawkins visited the Imperial Household Agency, Imperial Palace, in his role as President of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation (CPASF) to deliver a message from the Chairman of the CPASF and offer sympathies and support. The Grand Chamberlain thanked the people of Hawaii for their friendship and the outpouring of sympathy and support.



*JASH President Ed Hawkins presents an “Aloha for Japan” T-Shirt to JRCS Vice President Yoshiharu Otsuka (Tokyo, Japan; April 11, 2011).*



*Inside the JRCS Operations Center in Tokyo, Japan; staff is coordinating relief operations in the disaster area (Tokyo, Japan; April 11, 2011).*